



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
SPRING 2023 PAN AFRICA YOUTH LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM(PAYLP)
DEADLINE TO APPLY: November 21, 2022

The Embassy of the United States of America to Mauritius and Seychelles is accepting applications **from Mauritius and Seychelles** for the Spring 2023 Pan Africa Youth Leadership Program (PAYLP).

The PAYLP program offers secondary school youth (ages 15-18) and adult educators the opportunity to explore priority policy themes such as civic education, climate resiliency, conflict resolution, economic development, entrepreneurship, respect for diversity, women's empowerment, and youth leadership development. Through three-week, intensive exchanges in the United States, participants will engage in workshops on leadership and service, community site visits related to the program themes and subthemes, interactive training in conflict resolution, presentations, visits to high schools, local cultural activities, and homestays with American families. A key component of the program requires participants to develop follow-on projects in their home communities to bring about positive change after their return home.

The spring exchange will be conducted in English and will take place at various colleges, universities, and institutions throughout the United States over the course of three weeks in April 2023.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Approximate dates for the Spring 2023 exchange are April 8 - 29, 2023

We anticipate that the exchange will take place in-person, however should logistical, administrative, and/or health-related challenges associated with the global pandemic make the exchange unfeasible, the Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Program Office will work to plan for alternative programming, which may include robust virtual programs.

Program Funding: ECA, through an award to Meridian International Center, will cover all program costs, including round-trip international travel, alumni activities, lodging, stipends, in-country program related expenses (including domestic travel for visa interviews and/or pre-departure orientation), in-country lodging and expenses, and other program associated costs.

Health Benefits: Participants will be covered by ECA's Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE) health benefits program. Meridian International Center is responsible for enrolling participants. ASPE is a limited, health benefit program (not insurance) that covers medical expenses associated with each illness or accident up to \$100,000 per occurrence. ASPE does not cover routine examinations or pre-existing conditions. ASPE information is available at <https://www.sevencorners.com/gov/usdos>

COVID-19 Vaccinations: All participants are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with a vaccine approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) prior to travel to the United States.

CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

The youth participants should be high school students aged 15 to 18 years at the start of the exchange who have demonstrated their leadership potential through academic achievement, community involvement, and engagement in extracurricular activities. Each exchange delegation also will include adult participants who may be teachers, trainers, or community leaders who work with youth and will fill the roles of exchange participant, chaperone, and post-exchange mentor.

A successful youth candidate for this program will:

- be a high school student who is aged 15, 16, 17 or 18 years at the start of the exchange;
- be proficient in English;
- be able to attend at least one additional semester of high school in the home country following completion of the program;
- indicate a serious interest in learning more about the United States of America;
- demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in the home school or community;

- have a high level of academic achievement, as indicated by academic grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;
- demonstrate a personal commitment to community service and record of engagement in extracurricular activities;
- have had little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of the home country;
- be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful, and inquisitive;
- be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive program, including community service events and an active educational travel program during the exchange, as well as in follow-on activities in the home country.
- be willing and able to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and provide proof of vaccination before travel.

Adult candidates nominated for this program will:

- be teachers, trainers, volunteers, or community leaders who work with youth;
- be proficient in English;
- have a commitment to remain in teaching positions or other positions of influence on young leaders after the program ends;
- indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States of America;
- demonstrate an interest in further developing professional skills;
- be eager to work with the teenage participants and to assist them to become productive and responsible members of society;
- exhibit maturity and open-mindedness; and
- be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive program, including community service events and active educational travel program during the exchange, as well as to mentor youth in their follow-on activities in their home countries.
- be willing and able to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and provide proof of vaccination before travel.

OTHER FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

We will nominate up to four (4) principal youth candidates, two (2) alternate youth nominations, one (1) principal adult candidate and one (1) alternate adult nomination.

Interested candidates must download and complete the application form. All application forms must be emailed to portlouis_pas@state.gov with subject line: **'Application for Spring 2023 Pan Africa Youth Leadership Program (PAYLP) 'by latest November 21, 2022.**

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Only applicants who are selected for interviews will be contacted and must be available for an in-person /Zoom interview (as necessary) the second week of December 2022.